



As many of you know, we have recently started a new site in Southern Ohio with Chance Cooper leading the way. Please read what he wrote below as he shares about the difference the teams who come to serve alongside the ministry of ARO will make in Southern Ohio.

First, thank you for taking an interest in Appalachia Reach Out and the work we are doing across Appalachia. I understand that when we hear Appalachia, often, we think of bibbed overalls and dirt floors tucked back into the hills. Partly, you would be correct; you can find that where we call home. What you will find more, is a people who work hard and love well, but live under a glass ceiling of poverty. To us, poverty is more than the number that is assigned to someone who is poor. Poverty is often a lifestyle of choices both personal and generational. Understanding that circumstances happen completely out of our control that can drastically change our way of life. Sometimes economic challenges, addiction, trauma, or simple bad choices leave our community in great need of Christ's love, grace, and mercy. The type of Love that loves you just the way you are, but far too much to leave you that way. We could take a "Poor Tour" and show you everything that probably comes to mind when you hear the word Appalachia. Rather, our heart is that your eyes would be opened to the hurting community and often hopeless eyes that we meet before us around every corner.

At ARO, our mission is to alleviate poverty through Christ's Love in Action. In Southern Ohio, much like our other sites, that word Action is what can change and look differently with our short-term mission teams. That might look like doing home remodeling or construction projects, sorting donations, spending time at our recovery meeting, loving on students in one of our local schools, or sharing conversation at one of our addiction treatment facilities. What does not change is the relationships built and the dignity restored to a community desperately lost. We work hard to partner with local organizations to share in creating the greatest impact. Anywhere that our short-term mission teams serve will always be somewhere that our team is working 365 to foster relationships and introduce the authentic love of Christ. Why do we engage in a ministry that sometimes feels like we are pushing water up hill? Short answer, as the Director of our Southern Ohio site, I am a direct result of the undeserved, unwavering, overwhelming love of the Christ in action. As a first-generation Christian who comes from all the brokenness that I have described, without a single doubt, there is hope in the work that we do. My story is not unlike so many other testimonies of grace and life change that we hear through our work with ARO. Everyone is being led in a direction and we actively choose to lead them to Jesus. We believe that as we reach the community with helping hands to lift them up, people's lives can be changed, and the bondage of poverty broken. Much like the Samaritan we read of in Luke 10, we hope to follow Christ command, "Go and do likewise." We understand, breaking from the bondage of poverty does not happen overnight. Our prayer is that through Christ we may be the neighbors we are called to be in the communities we serve.

Thank you for taking the time to read from my heart. If you have any questions or I can help in anyway, please do not hesitate to reach out. Keep my family in your prayers as we engage in this work, and we continue to pray for everyone who has a heart to be Christ Love in Action.

Chance Cooper
Director of Ministry Advancement
Work and Witness Coordinator for Ohio
Appalachia Reach Out

What's New

ARO Hosts First Team at Southern Ohio Site

Findlay Church of the Nazarene was our first team to serve at the ARO Southern Ohio site this past month. The Findlay Team, led by Mike McClurg, served this community in many ways. They started their week worshipping with the good folks at Cornerstone Nazarene. They served various places throughout the week including the sexual assault/domestic violence shelter by sorting donations, power washing, giving the grounds a face lift and fixed the roof. The team also served at CAPE by investing in faculty members and students who will call the school home this school year. Some of the other places this team served were Mended Reeds and Steppingstones.

To say this week was life changing is an understatement. God showed up in so many ways and we couldn't be more excited for what the future holds. Nine teams are already on our schedule to serve with us at the ARO site in Southern Ohio. To each and everyone who has had any part, Thank You!



Monthly Updates

ARO's Summer Interns/Testimonials

As ARO says, "goodbye for now" to our summer interns, we thought it would be nice to share with everyone a few of their testimonials about their time spent at ARO. The Summer of 2024 was a huge success in large part because of these four individuals!

Alize' Young shared...

"If you are thinking about attending ARO as a summer intern, I would highly recommend it. While you will be exhausted sometimes, it is worth it and if it's a sincere call from God then He gives you the strength to keep going. The community feels like family, you will meet hundreds of people not only from Kentucky, but from all over the world, and you get to share the love of Jesus with some of the most deserving and loving people ever. I wouldn't have wanted to spend my summer any other way. I made life long friends and built amazing relationships all while serving a glorious God. You will see Him around you constantly during your time here."

Samantha Dyachenko shared...

"What an amazing summer at Appalachia Reach Out! Reflecting on this summer, I realize that God had every relationship, memory, and lesson planned. A few of my favorite moments were: Getting to share my testimony at White Oak (a local addiction recovery center)- God had been putting it on my heart, so being able to share my story there was special, training for the Chicago Marathon with Heather, hosting a foot washing ceremony at White Oak- God had also put this on my heart earlier in the summer and it was so beautiful to pray over the women that attended, and meeting so many incredible people. We served 17 families this summer on the Food Fun Run. We were able to make great relationships with each of these families and gift them devos/Bibles at the end of the summer! I felt so blessed to be able to build these relationships and spend time with all of the ARO staff and interns! Leaving the summer feeling grateful and challenged. I learned so much over the course of the summer and I'm excited to see where God leads me next!!"

Lydia Bolden shared...

"It has been one amazing summer! I am so grateful to Appalachian Reach Out for this experience and the opportunity to be a part of their mission. I've worked harder, learned more, and had more fun than I thought I could this summer. I was able to learn how to do manual labor as well as be a leader. Coming into this summer I didn't know if I would be ready for the challenges that lay ahead but with the guidance of the ARO staff and God's faithfulness, I was able to do more than I expected. The most important thing anyone could take away from ARO, whether you are there for the summer or just a week is the incredible experience of doing life with the people of Martin County. Martin County is a special place and I can't wait to see all the wonderful things God continues to do there!"

Philip Hinerman shared...

"My internship at ARO constantly pushed me outside of my comfort zone, but it was in those moments that my faith grew the most. Growing up in West Virginia the people of Appalachia have always held a special place in my heart. ARO put me in a position to serve these people everyday and put me in a position to tackle some of the issues that plagued our region for far too long. I experienced God in so many ways in Martin County through fellowship with the people, sharing my testimony and most importantly through serving others. The greatest lesson I learned during my time with ARO was the power of prayer. I saw first hand what a willingness to pray and follow God's will can do in the lives of others."



ARO's Martin County Site Partners with Multiple Teams this Summer

Bartlesville (Oklahoma) Nazarene

Appalachia Reach Out in Martin County welcomed multiple teams this summer and saw God move in big ways. It was a treat to partner with Bartlesville

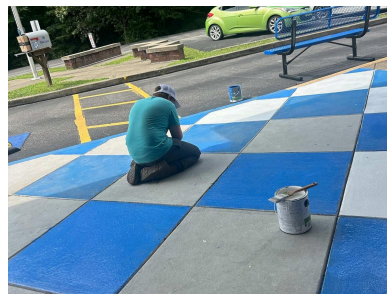
(Oklahoma) Nazarene in July. Together we were able to work on one home, continue our summer ministry with the Family Food Fun Run, lead ARO's 3rd and final Vacation Bible School, work at Inez Elementary, lead worship at Celebrate Recovery and White Oak Hill Women's Residential Facility, serve at Serenity House and Karen's Place Maternity Center, volunteer at the ARO Food Pantry, minister to a few widows, complete a few house keeping project on ARO's campus, and many other unseen acts of kindness in Jesus name.

Thanks again to Bartlesville Nazarene!



Ridgefield (Washington) Nazarene

God has done amazing things through the partnership of ARO and Ridgefield Nazarene! ARO's mission is to always be "Christ's Love in Action" and Ridgefield Naz helped us live into our mission while they were here. Along with many other service projects, they worked on four homes that needed a hand up, partnered with the Martin County Fiscal Court and installed new cabinets at the Warfield Park Community Center, and volunteered at ARO's Summer Family Food Fun Run. This team served in all areas with humility and grace.



South Bend (Indiana) Nazarene

Pastor Andy Lauer, one of Dwayne's college friends, brought a team to serve from South Bend, IN. Jesus was seen in many ways of service as South Ben Nazarene and ARO served together. They continued the work of painting the Warfield Elementary School Playground, repaired a bathroom for a family in need, served a hot meal in our Food Fun Run, ministered at Karen's Place, Serenity House, Celebrate Recovery, White Oak Hill, worked on a project at the Martin County Courthouse, replaced the ceiling in the Tomahawk Firehouse and worked in the ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry. So many were served in Jesus name.

As with all our teams this summer, this good work would not have been possible without our ARO community partners and ARO staff. It takes all of us to make a difference in our world!



Niekerk CRC - Holland, MI

ARO was blessed to partner with Niekerk CRC in August. Many things were accomplished with this team from Western Michigan. Everything from home projects, tutoring in the schools, ministering at White Oak Hill, Serenity House, Karen's Place Maternity Center, serving at the Martin Co. Celebrate Recovery, working on the campus of ARO, and so much more. God is on the move in the mountains!



Paulding (Ohio) Nazarene

This week was filled with serving others, learning, laughing, crying, and allowing God to have His way in our lives. Paulding Nazarene was a true example of what God will do with those who are willing to say YES to Him. They served in Inez Elementary, Eden Elementary, Warfield Elementary, Martin County Celebrate Recovery, and White Oak Hill. They also helped complete two home repairs, served at Turkey Creek Nazarene and other sites in the community. We are always blessed when these teams can help unload trailers full of goods for our thrift store and food pantry. Thank you, Paulding Nazarene! You loved and served well for the Kingdom of Jesus here on earth.



ON THE ROAD WITH ARO

It has been a busy summer as ARO has partnered with many wonderful churches and teams. In addition, Dwayne has been traveling across the region going to various churches and meetings. He attended a large non-denominational partnering church in Cincinnati, Ohio where they had close to 10 global partners in attendance, of which ARO is blessed to be one.

Recently, Dwayne traveled to Three Rivers Nazarene Church in Michigan to share what God is doing through the ministry of ARO. This generous faith community has served in eastern Kentucky the past two years. Thanks to this wonderful church for being part of the ARO story.

God is on the move in the mountains!



Thrift Store & Pantry

Thrift Store & Food Pantry Updates

The ARO Thrift Store and Food Pantry continue to serve many families in our community through the summer months. We partnered with a group from Springdale Nazarene Church who brought a box truck with donations for the store and pantry. First State Bank (Inez Branch) sent interns to help at the food pantry. Thanks again for your help! We had a trailer brought from Michigan from our Lake Odessa friends. A huge shout out to those who helped unload the truck. We had several friends from the SWO SWORD ministry bring donations to the store and pantry and other organizations around Martin County. There were many others who helped with in the food pantry and thrift store this summer. We could not exist without the volunteers who help with unloading and organizing supplies. We are so grateful for this area of our ministry and our leaders Bill and Jana Zuidema!



ARO THRIFT STORE ITEMS

- Towels
- Tennis shoes

- Men's Clothing
- Sheets/Blankets
- Comforters/Quilts
- NEW socks & underwear for kids & adults
- Adult pull-ups (Not diapers)
 - Chucks
 - Cabinets
 - Doors

*(Please NO head boards/foot boards, NO entertainment centers, NO car seats,
NO TV's, NO computers, NO electronics!)

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

*ALL food has to have a good expiration date!
(No expired dates or dates that are close to the day you donate it!)

Top Needs this Month

- Peanut Butter
- Pancake Syrup
- Antiperspirant
- Bladder Control Pads
- Body Wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner

- Cereal (normal size)
 - Juice
 - Flour
- Salt and Pepper
- Vegetable Oil
- Chef Boyardee cans (Or other heat & eat)
 - Ketchup/Mayo/Mustard/Syrup
 - Cans of soup
 - Jam
 - Spaghetti sauce
- Granola bars/cereal bars
- SpagettiO's and Hamburger Helper

Hygiene Items

- Toothpaste/tooth brush
- Deodorant WITH antiperspirant

-Call or text Bill Zuidema at 606-534-0707 about any other items concerning the
thrift store or pantry. Items need to be new or gently used, complete and in
working order for the Thrift Store.

Speaking Engagements

If you are in the area where Dwayne will be speaking, or want to plan to hear about ARO and how God is moving in the mountains, we would love to see you on the road!

Dwayne's Upcoming Speaking Schedule:

- Sunday, September 22**
– Kelloggsville (OH) Nazarene
Sunday, September 29
– Spiceland (IN) Nazarene



Thank
you!

Thank you for partnering with ARO to be *Christ's Love in Action*. Thank you for your faithful prayers, service, giving, and trust in ARO! All that has been accomplished would not be possible without you! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide us?



Feel free to contact ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, at dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com



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